

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 20-25 and 27-37 are pending in the application. Claim 20 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26. Claim 26 is canceled. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Summary of Rejections


In the present Final Office Action, claims 20-25 and 28-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,177,153 to Lowe ("Lowe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,795,583 to Papay ("Papay") and U.S. Patent No. 6,844,301 to Field et al. ("Field"). Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Lowe in view of Papay and Field as applied to claims 20-35, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,344,579 to Ohtani et al. ("Ohtani"). Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowe in view of Papay and Field as applied to claims 20-35, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,225,266 to Watts et al. ("Watts"). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 26 which has been found allowable by the present Office Action. Therefore, claims 21-25 and 27-37 should likewise be held allowable since they depend from an allowable independent base claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 20-25 and 27-37 are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments.

FEES

The undersigned believes that there are no fees associated with this filing. However, if the calculations are incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-2355. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 12-2355.

Respectfully submitted,
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